

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 10924 051517Z
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1190
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10924

LIMDIS

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, GT, MX
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL'S VIEW OF GUATEMALAN
PRESIDENT

1. AFTER HIS RETURN FROM LUCAS' INAUGURATION AND BEFORE
DEPARTING FOR EUROPE, ROEL TELEPHONED ME HIS IMPRESSIONS
OF NEW PRESIDENT AND OF GUATEMALAN SITUATION, WITH REQUEST
I PASS THEM TO SECRETARY VANCE, WITH WHOM HE HAD DIS-
CUSSED GUATEMALA DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT FOR OASGA.

2. ROEL FEELS THAT WHATEVER LIMITATIONS LUCAS MAY HAVE AND
CONSIDERING THE PRESSURES THAT WILL BE PUT ON HIM FROM
POLITICAL RIGHT AND LEFT AND FROM THE MILITARY, HE IS THE
QUOTE BEST WE CAN DO UNQUOTE AND THAT MEXICO AND US SHOULD
LEND HIM MORAL SUPPORT AND HELP HIM SOLVE HIS MANY PROBLEMS.
ROEL DESCRIBED LUCAS AS QUOTE A DECENT PERSON UNQUOTE WITH
WHOM WE CAN DEAL, AND THAT HE IS TAKING A DIFFERENT
APPROACH FROM THAT OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY
ON BELIZE, WHERE HIS INTENTIONS TO FIND A QUICK, PEACEFUL
SOLUTION ARE NOTEWORTHY. (IN LATER CONVERSATION ROEL
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CALLED MY ATTENTION TO STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT VILLAGRAN,
AT LUCAS' PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 3, THAT GUATEMALA AND UK
WOULD BEGIN A NEW DIALOGUE ON BELIZE STARTING COMPLETELY
AFRESH.) ROEL SPENT TWO HOURS WITH LUCAS ON DAY HE ARRIVED
IN GUATEMALA CITY, AND WAS PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON GUEST.
ROEL STRESSED HIS INTEREST IN HAVING HIS IMPRESSIONS REACH
SECRETARY AND SAID HE FELT STRONGLY THAT MEXICO AND U.S.

SHOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH OVER COMING MONTHS ON GUATEMALA
AND CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION IN GENERAL. TEXB3. DAS SALLY SHELTON
WAS WITH ME WHEN ROEL CALLED AND SHE

HAD SEPARATE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ROEL ABOUT LUCAS
AND GUATEMALA. BASED ON HER CONTACTS AT INAUGURATION WITH
LUCAS AND OTHERS, SHE HAS A LESS FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF
NEW PRESIDENT AND IS LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIS CHANCES FOR
SUCCESS. SHE WILL BE PRESENTING HER VIEWS TO DEPARTMENT
FOLLOWING HER RETURN JULY 4. LUCEY

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